

Here are some tips on how we as volunteer managers can help our volunteers

Set up a volunteer page on Facebook or set up a WhatsApp group for your volunteers

This is a good way for volunteers to keep in touch with each other and a way for volunteer managers to share any updates.

Phone your volunteers

Many people will appreciate you taking the time to give them a call. If you have a large number of volunteers this may be something other members of staff can help with. For volunteers who live alone, it may be a good idea to phone them on a regular basis.

Buddy volunteers with each other

You could set up a system for your volunteers to be matched with another volunteer who they will phone on a weekly basis. This may work especially well for people who are not able to go online.

Virtual coffee morning

A zoom coffee morning is a great way to connect with your volunteers.

Put together a wellbeing pack

You could put together a wellbeing information pack for your volunteers with tips on how they can look after their wellbeing whilst staying at home. You could include links to useful websites and contact numbers for where they can get more specialist help and support.

Link volunteers with other activities in the community

There are activities that volunteers can get involved in without leaving their home. Share information and resources on keeping active, mindfulness and learning.

Link volunteers with other volunteering opportunities

If your volunteers are not currently volunteering for your organisation because your activities are on hold, you could signpost them to other opportunities. Volunteers can also give help more informally by supporting their neighbours or joining a mutual aid group in their area. There are roles that they can be done remotely such as being a telephone befriending, admin or social media.

Email any updates and news about your organisation

Keep your volunteers informed of any changes, news and updates that are going on at your organisation during this time. That way when it is safe for them to resume their volunteer role, they won't feel too out of the loop.

Don't forget their birthdays

Sending a birthday card to volunteers is something many organisations do anyway and now more than ever the thoughtful gesture will be appreciated and give volunteers a boost.

Say thank you

You can never say thank you enough for volunteers! Let your volunteers know that they are valued. Volunteers' Week runs 1-7 June but you can do this at any time. You could send them a card, certificate or organise a virtual coffee morning during the week.